

SLATER E-SLATE

2003-01 (New Year)

The New Year is the season in which custom seems more particularly to authorize civil and harmless lies, under the name of compliments. People reciprocally profess wishes which they seldom form and concern which they seldom feel.
- British statesman Philip Dormer Stanhope, 4th Earl of Chesterfield -

How telling is this observation, now that another New Year is upon us? Jan. 1 truly marks a rebirth, yet how quick we are to stumble back into old habits we long to discard. I am often asked, "What do we have to look forward to?" The answers are all around us.

I like to take a moment to appreciate what we enjoy, year-round.

San Diego is a remarkable region. Our economy is vibrant. This region is known for incubating tomorrow's breakthroughs in biomedicine and biotech. Our communities are safe and strong. Crime rates in San Diego are among the lowest in the state. Our police, sheriff's deputies and firefighters receive superior training and protect us with class. Our region is proud to be home for our nation's best Navy and Marine commands. From Camp Pendleton through Coronado and the 39th Street Naval Station, San Diego cares, cares for, and, when it occurs, mourns the loss of, those many members who are proud to wear the uniforms of the U.S. Navy, Marines, Air Force, Army and Coast Guard. May 2003 be a year when peace again reigns, knowing you are there to defend our liberties and our way of life.

Where else but San Diego can you enjoy mild summer weather for the first week of January? Where else but San Diego can you quickly escape to mountain snow or shoreline sun? Where else but San Diego can you enjoy mile after mile of pristine hiking trails, each step taking one closer to solitude with nature? This is what makes our quality-of-life so precious, so desired by others.

Yes, we enjoy so much here in San Diego. It is my honor to serve as your representative, to be your steward to maintain and improve this paradise. It's going to be a great year!

AROUND THE DISTRICT... Congratulations go out to the hard-working volunteers and staff who coordinated a most-successful First Night celebration in Escondido. The family orientated, alcohol-free celebration sold more than \$100,000 in tickets, proving families and singles alike want to greet the New Year with style and spirit. ... Showing they care about the quality of education offered in the San Dieguito Union High School District, 13 residents from Carmel Valley to Carlsbad have filed to fill the seat vacated by Susan Hartley upon her election to the county Board of Education.

AT THE COUNTY ... Are you interested in maintaining the high quality of law enforcement in San Diego County? There are two openings on the Citizen's Law Enforcement Review Board.

The panel's mission is "to increase public confidence in government and the accountability of law enforcement through the investigation and reporting of citizen complaints filed against peace officers or custodial officers employed by the County in the Sheriff's or Probation Departments, which allege improper conduct by the officers, or which allege policy or procedural violations." Download an application at <http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/clerb/agendas.html>.

IN THE ARTS ... It's the New Year and you are feeling "gaudy, bawdy and a little bit naughty." Check out "An English Music Hall," directed by the La Jolla Stage Co.'s Wayne Tibbets, featuring tunes popular from the turn of the century. Curtain rises Jan. 10 through Feb. 23.